

Testimony in support of

**Senate Bill 383 and**

**House Bill 5403**

Dear Senators and State Representatives of the Finance Committee,

My name is Laura Garcia and I live in Norwalk, Connecticut.

I am a member of Unidad Latina en Acción and the Recovery for All coalition. We come together from every town in Connecticut to make this state a place where everyone can thrive, no matter their skin color, gender, national origin, or language.

I would like to give my testimony in support of:

- **Senate Bill 383 and**
- **House Bill 5403**

For 8 years I have been paying my taxes in the state of Connecticut, like any citizen. Today I am here not only for myself, but representing all working women, who fought hard during the pandemic and before the pandemic in order to survive. Just as I was a domestic worker, there are thousands of mothers throughout Connecticut who are essential workers and lack the basic necessities to give their children a better future.

I wish they could put themselves in the shoes of thousands of people who during the pandemic had to work day by day in order to survive on the little salary they earned.

I am the mother to my family; I have two minor children. My family like many others have had to live up to now with many shortcomings, being the only one who worked in the house and who brought sustenance to the table, I was afraid to go to work and get Covid-19 because then my family would suffer a lot the consequences, not only of not being able to go to the doctor because I did not have medical insurance, but because I still couldn't get stimulus checks or unemployment because of my immigration status.

We were called heroes during the pandemic, because we do the work that makes this state thrive. However, working people are living paycheck to paycheck, with unpaid bills.

It's not fair that my family has to suffer lack to pay taxes as high as the state of Connecticut has. It is time for justice. My husband and I just bought a house. We work hard, take care of our families, and take care of other residents of this state of Connecticut. We want to give a better life to our children, and that's why I ask you to approve:

**Senate Bill 383 and**

**House Bill 5403**

Thank you.